

Flood Safety Reminders

Recent high volumes of rain are causing flooding and sewer system overflow in the state. Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) reminds all Rhode Islanders of precautions to take during floods:

- Avoid contact with floodwater when possible. Floodwaters may contain raw sewage or other hazardous substances.
- Avoid surfing or boating in floodwaters.
- Do not allow children or pets to wade in or play in floodwater.
- Do not expose open cuts or wounds to floodwaters. Floodwaters can cause an infection in an open wound.
- Do not eat any food that has come in contact with floodwater. For more information on food safety after a flood, visit <http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm076993.htm>
- Conserve water whenever possible to minimize sewage overflow. (Limit toilet flushing and avoid using dishwashers and washing machines.)
- If your well is flooded, visit <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/privatewells/whatdo.html> for information on testing and decontamination.
- Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or are standing in water.
- Do not walk in moving water. Six inches of moving water can knock a person over.
- Avoid driving through flooded areas.
- To avoid mold growth, dry out any flooded areas of a building within 48 hours. For more information on mold, visit http://www.epa.gov/iaq/flood/flood_booklet_en.pdf
- Remove wet carpets, furniture or bedding as soon as possible.
- Check HEALTH's website (<http://www.health.ri.gov>) for any Boil Water Advisories that may be enacted. Currently, there are no Boil Water Advisories related to the flooding.
- Make sure any important medical documents are in waterproof containers.

For additional information, visit <http://www.health.ri.gov> or call 222-5960.

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